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3 April 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Assistant to the
Director of Training

SUBJECT : Weekly Activities Report

1. Members of the GAO foreign language survey team will visit us on 7 April. Following the directions laid down by the DDS I have advised Mr. Woods and Company that our talks will be informal and "off-the-record", designed to provide them with some of the information they need to better understand the government language training picture but not for inclusion in any report on the subject. This Mr. Woods understands and has agreed to. ✓

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2. On 1 April [redacted] accompanied several other members of OTR to the Naval Academy, Annapolis, to observe demonstrations of computer-assisted and multi-media instruction. The Academy has so far developed four computer-assisted courses, of which basic Russian was of the most interest to us. The computer portion of the Russian course combines pictures or sketches, the written language and aural practice; sessions with an instructor are also provided. While they said the course has been very successful, they emphasized throughout the demonstration the need for well-written material and constant revision. The multi-media physics course offers the student a choice of video-taped demonstrations and lectures, projected illustrations to be used with audio-taped lectures, and work books containing the same information in written form, to supplement conventional textbooks. Of the three auxiliary media, the video tape was the most enthusiastically received by the students. The group was also given a tour of the Academy's educational television station. ✓
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3. The School has received another small benefit from [redacted] continued liaison [redacted] in the form of a set of records from [redacted] that may be useful as comprehension materials. They are a series of folk stories narrated by different speakers with background sound effects. We have transferred them to tape and are considering methods of incorporating them into our instruction.

4. The Chinese department has produced the first of a series of supplemental vocabulary lists. It covers foods and cooking -- a subject barely touched on in most Chinese courses, but of great interest to anyone who will be living in China. A copy is attached.

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5. [REDACTED] our only Lao instructor, was rushed to the hospital this week where she delivered a son. The baby was about 6 weeks premature and is in very critical condition. It is unlikely that she will return to the Language School for several months. We had expected to have another Lao instructor on hand when we accepted the class but after his arrival in Washington from Laos it was learned that he did not have appropriate documentation for a work permit and his security clearance was not completed to the satisfaction of the OTR security officer. FE Division has been working to correct these problems so that we can bring [REDACTED] aboard and the prognosis is that this will be next week. In the meantime, we are without a Lao instructor so it becomes necessary to suspend the Lao class until Mr. [REDACTED] is employable and we have had time for indoctrination. Fortunately he is a skilled trained teacher so we hope that he can begin teaching with a minimum of delay.

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6. This week [REDACTED] attended a meeting at HEW to discuss a proposal submitted by Dr. Szalay of American Institutes for Research on Associative Group Analysis in Thai. Representatives from DLI, USIA and NSF were also in attendance. The proposal has merit beyond the purely linguistic aspect as it also covers many socio-political aspects. There is not much likelihood that the project will be accepted at this time because of money shortages. In fact, the entire Title VI program is in the phase-out process and [REDACTED] the Chief of the Language Research Section is expected to be leaving shortly.

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7. Language School Statistics

Students and Classes as of 3 April 1970:

Students

Full-time - 81
Part-time - 141 (25 BAHLT)
(59 Hqs.)

Classes

Full-time - 36
Part-time - 55 (6 BAHLT)
(12 Hqs.)

Laboratory hours for the week of 23 - 27 March 1970:

Language School - 336
Headquarters - 80

Twenty-six language proficiency tests were administered during the week of 23 - 27 March 1970.

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[REDACTED]
Chief, Language School